

# ADMINISTRATOR'S EMPHASIS LIST AND CERCLA DECISIONS > \$50 MILLION

## ADMINISTRATOR'S EMPHASIS LIST:

The **Administrator's Emphasis List** is a list of sites from across the United States that the EPA Administrator has targeted for immediate and intense attention. This list is in direct response to the Superfund Task Force Recommendations, issued on July 25, 2017. The list was first released in October 2017 and has been updated 2-4 times per year. The most recent update to the Administrator's Emphasis List was on January 15, 2021.

In developing this list, EPA considered sites that can benefit from the Administrator's direct engagement and have identifiable actions to protect human health and the environment. These are sites requiring timely resolution of specific issues to expedite cleanup and redevelopment efforts. The list is designed to spur action at sites where opportunities exist to act quickly and comprehensively. The Administrator receives regular updates on each of these sites and the list is updated regularly. The list is intended to be dynamic. Sites move on and off the list as appropriate and there is no fixed number of sites. At times, there have been more, or fewer sites based on where the Administrator's attention and focus is most needed. There is no commitment of additional funding associated with a site's inclusion on the list. After a site is removed from the list, the site continues to be monitored and the Administrator continues to get regular updates on site progress.

In the January 2021 update of the list, eight sites (Orange County North Basin in Orange, California; Petroleum Products Corporation in Pembroke Park, Florida; Des Moines TCE in Des Moines, Iowa; USS Lead in Chicago, Indiana; Olin Chemical in Wilmington, Massachusetts; Carter Carburetor in St. Louis, Missouri; Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area in Butte, Montana; and Mohawk Tannery in Nashua, New Hampshire) were removed and three sites (Sauer Dump in Dundalk, Maryland; Riverfront in New Haven, Missouri; and Armour Road in North Kansas City, Missouri) were added .

Since the creation of the initial Administrator's Emphasis List in 2017, 28 sites have been removed because they achieved their milestones. With the January 2021 update 9 sites and one project are currently on the list.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S EMPHASIS LIST - UPCOMING MILESTONES:

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## REMEDIES GREATER THAN \$50 MILLION

To facilitate the more rapid remediation and revitalization of contaminated sites and to promote accountability and consistency in remedy selection, the former EPA Administrator issued a revised delegation of authority in May 2017 followed by a clarifying memo in April 2018. With the revised delegation, the EPA Administrator retained the authority to select or modify remedies estimated to exceed \$50 million. The revised delegation went into effect immediately upon issuance and since then 33 decisions have been signed or approved for signature by the EPA Administrator.

## DECISIONS GREATER THAN \$50 MILLION - UPCOMING MILESTONES:

EPA is currently in the process of developing several CERCLA decisions consistent with the May 2017 revised delegation. As such, EPA anticipates the following decisions may be approved and/or signed by the Administrator in the next 3 – 6 months, however schedules for these and other sites may be adjusted as needed:

- Maywood Chemical (Explanation of Significant Differences) (NJ – Region 2)
- Standard Chlorine Operable Unit 2 (Proposed Plan) (DE – Region 3)
- Sandoval Zinc (Proposed Plan) (IL – Region 5)
- Cyprus Tohono (Proposed Plan) (AZ – Region 9)
- Harbor Island - East Waterway Operable Unit (Proposed Plan) (WA – Region 10)
- Hanford 200-BP-5, 200-PO-1 (Record of Decision) (WA – Region 10)

## KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

☒ Congress    ☒ Industry    ☒ States    ☒ Tribes    ☒ Media    ☒ Other Federal Agency  
☒ NGO    ☐ Other (name of stakeholder) \_\_\_\_\_

- Each site has specific key external stakeholders.

## MOVING FORWARD:

- EPA anticipates to continue to use the **Administrator's Emphasis List** as an effective tool to resolve issues delaying cleanups, and to move sites forward to completion and facilitate reuse and redevelopment opportunities.
- Additionally, based on the current delegation, the EPA Administrator will continue to approve/sign decisions estimated to exceed \$50 million.

LEAD OFFICE/REGION: HQ—OLEM IO